

Screening vs Diagnostic Mammography

Information for General Practitioners



Screening Mammography (BreastScreen Queensland Program)	Diagnostic Mammography (Public or Private Provider)
For asymptomatic 'well' women to detect unsuspected lesions.	For diagnosing breast changes or abnormalities that may have been detected through BSE and/or clinical examination.
Emphasis is on population benefit.	Emphasis is on individual benefit.
Services provided through an organised program of community and health professionals where recruitment, education, screening, assessment, recall, data collection and evaluation are performed.	Services as required on referral from individual general or surgical practices.
Women aged 50–74 are actively invited for a free mammogram. Women in their 40s and 75 years and over can also attend for free.	Only for women with symptoms or changes. There may be an out-of-pocket expense.
No referral required.	Referral from individual general or surgical practice required.
Undertaken at a BreastScreen Queensland clinic or mobile service. A multidisciplinary team of radiologists, surgeons, pathologists, physicians, nurses and radiographers are available.	Normally undertaken in a general diagnostic imaging practice (some specialist breast clinics have been established).
Staff specialise in the screening and assessment of impalpable lesions.	Staff experienced in a range of diagnostic procedures. Experience in breast cancer mainly with women presenting with palpable lesions/changes.
Recall for screening at recommended intervals (normally every two years for women aged 50–74).	Recall and recommendation for further tests at the discretion of the general practitioner or surgeon.
Where screening results are normal , the woman and her nominated general practitioner are notified within two weeks, either through mail or electronic means. Where screening results are abnormal , the woman will be notified by phone and her nominated general practitioner will be notified following completion of her assessment.	Report to general practitioner or surgeon usually within a few days.
Systematic data collection for monitoring, quality and morbidity and mortality outcomes for the population.	General practitioner or surgeon records data specific to the management of the individual woman.

Call 13 20 50 or visit
breastscreen.qld.gov.au